



Information Policy & Compliance
bbc.co.uk/foi bbc.co.uk/privacy

Dr T. Jackson

By email to: request-224765-0b54662e@whatdotheyknow.com

19 December 2014

Dear Dr Jackson

Freedom of Information Act request – RFI20141319

Further to our previous letter of 5 November 2014, we are writing in response to your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (the Act) seeking the following information:

Please consider this as a new request on the same topic. As you might be aware, the FOIA is often described as purpose and applicant blind. This means that any member of the public can request any information and the public authority is not entitled to know the purpose/rationale of their request. In this case, as it may assist your handling of my request, I volunteer the fact that I am seeking to establish whether senior BBC staff members exerted any pressure on members of the Dame Janet Smith Review team to delay publication of the review findings.

Please provide all information contained in any correspondence between senior BBC staff members and members of the Dame Janet Smith Review team (or Counsel/Secretariat to the Review) that relates to the scheduled publication date of the review findings.

I am only seeking relevant information produced since 1st January 2013. By senior BBC staff member, I mean any member of staff named on the following BBC web page:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/aboutthebbc/insidethebbc/managementstructure/biographies/>

In our previous response to you we disclosed some of the requested information, and said that we considered that some of the information contained in the correspondence may be exempt under section 36 (prejudice to the effective conduct of public affairs).

Having considered the information against section 36 of the Act, the Chairman, Rona Fairhead, is of the opinion that the requirements of the exemption are met. The Chairman went on to consider the balance of public interest in accordance with section 2 of the Act, and she considers that the public interest favours maintaining the exemption in respect of the information you have requested. We have attached a copy of the Chairman's written opinion to this letter.

Appeal Rights

If you are not satisfied that we have complied with the Act in responding to your request, you have the right to appeal to the Information Commissioner. The contact details are: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF, telephone 01625 545 745 or see <http://www.ico.gov.uk/>

Yours sincerely

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